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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/975,051	10/11/2001	Steven Thompson	PD-200305	1007

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Hughes Electronics Corporation
Patent Docket Administration
Bldg. 1, Mail Stop A109
P.O. Box 956
El Segundo, CA 90245-0956

EXAMINER

TRINH, TAN H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2684

DATE MAILED: 12/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/975,051

Applicant(s)

THOMPSON ET AL.

Examiner

TAN TRINH

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by McLain (U.S. Patent No. 6,731,909).

Regarding claims 1, 9 and 17, McLain teaches a system for managing interference in a communications network which establishes communication cells at respective locations on the surface of the earth to enable communication between a plurality of user terminals (see fig. 1, col. 1, lines 13-31), comprising: an interference detector (see col. 1, lines 37-56. Since the binary search scheme and determine the interference signal that is the detector), adapted to detect interference in the network which interferes with an ability of at least one user terminal to communicate in the network (see fig. 3, col. 1, lines 53-56); and an interference source identifier (see col. 1, line 53-col. 2, line13), adapted to identify a source of the interference by deactivating at least one select group of the user terminals based on criteria independent of the respective cell or cells in which the user terminals reside (see fig. 3, and col. 1, line 62-col. 2, line 13), to locate those of the terminals whose ability to communicate in the network is being interfered with by the detected interference (see fig. 3 and col. 1, line 53-col. 2, line13).

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Regarding claims 2, 10 and 18, McLain teaches wherein: the communications network includes a satellite communications network and the user terminals include satellite terminals (see fig. 1); and the interference source identifier deactivates the at least one select group of the satellite terminals (see fig. 3, and col. 1, line 62-col. 2, line 13).

Regarding claims 3, 11 and 19, McLain teaches wherein: the interference source identifier deactivates the at least one select group of user terminals which are all located within a portion of a single cell (see fig. 3, and col. 1, line 62-col. 2, line 13 and fig. 1, the coverage region 14a or 14b).

Regarding claims 4, 12 and 20, McLain teaches the interference source identifier deactivates the at least one select group of user terminals which are located within multiple cells (see fig. 3, and col. 1, line 62-col. 2, line 13 and fig. 1, the coverage regions 14a and 14b).

Regarding claims 5, 13 and 21, McLain teaches the interference source identifier deactivates the at least one select group of user terminals which are all located in a respective geographic region having a size independent of a size of any of the cells (see fig. 3, and col. 1, line 22-col. 2, line 13, fig. 1, col. 3, lines 15-33).

Regarding claims 6-8, 14-16 and 22-24, McLain inherently teaches the interference source identifier deactivates the at least one select group of user terminals having data receiving addresses within a particular range of addresses (see fig. 3, col. 1, line 62- col. 2, line 4, Since the

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network operation center (NOC) send the command the mobile terminal to stop transmitting, and the NOC identifies the specific mobile terminal that is causing the interference, that is show a particular range of addresses or identifiers of terminal).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Molnar (U.S. Pub. No. 20020044614) discloses method and system for reducing interference using co-channel interference mapping.

Mccauley (U.S. Patent No. 6,735,436) discloses system and method for quantifying accuracy of interference analysis in a telecommunications network.

Jagger (U.S. Patent No. 6,704,378) discloses interference detection, identification, extraction and reporting.

4. **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314, (for Technology Center 2600 only)

*Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II,
2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).*

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5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tan Trinh whose telephone number is (703) 305-5622. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nay Maung, can be reached at (703) 308-7745.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the **Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office** whose telephone number is **(703) 306-0377**.

8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Tan H. Trinh
Art Unit 2684
Nov. 19, 2004


NICK CORSARO
PRIMARY EXAMINER